## **ABSTRACT**

A DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a fragment of the  $TAF_{II}105$  polypeptide subunit of the general transcription factor TFIID, or a modified fragment of the polypeptide. The fragment or modified fragment have a dominant negative effect on the normal biological activity of the  $TAF_{II}105$  polypeptide. Also disclosed are the polypeptide fragments, as well as pharmaceutical compositions comprising the DNA molecule or the polypeptide fragment for treatment of diseases related to the pathological occurrence of apoptosis.

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